



COMMUTER ALERT

16-219

Date: Thursday, October 27, 2016

District: 8 – Riverside/San Bernardino

Contact: Shelli Lombardo

Phone: (909) 383-4631

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WINTER DRIVING TIPS

SAN BERNARDINO—a storm is expected to hit the Southland this weekend. District 8 Maintenance crews are ready for the impending weather, are you? Be prepared. Below are a few winter driving tips acquired from The National Safety Council.

1. **Bring chains** for your vehicle if you are traveling to the mountains. You will not be permitted to pass without them if inclement weather dictates their use.
2. **Never pass snow plows or Caltrans equipment that are in service.** The drivers have limited visibility during inclement weather and you are likely to find the road in front of them worse than the road behind. Give them room--at least 200 feet!
3. **Decrease your speed** and leave yourself plenty of room to stop. You should allow at least three times more space than usual between you and the car in front of you. **Slow down.**
4. Brake gently to avoid skidding. If your wheels start to lock up, ease off the brake.
5. Turn on your head lights, not your fog lights, to increase your visibility to other motorists.
6. Keep your lights and windshield clean. Replace your windshield wipers if needed.
7. Use low gears to keep traction, especially on hills.
8. Don't use cruise control or overdrive.
9. Be especially careful on bridges, overpasses and infrequently traveled roads, which will freeze first. Even at temperatures above freezing, if the conditions are wet, you might encounter ice in shady areas or on exposed roadways like bridges.
10. Remember--black ice is nearly invisible.
11. Don't assume your vehicle can handle all conditions. Even four-wheel and front-wheel drive vehicles can encounter trouble on winter roads.
12. **Pack a winter safety kit.** Include blankets or sleeping bags, water, food, change of clothes and warm clothing, candles, matches, clay based kitty litter (for traction), an ice scraper, a radio and batteries, and a rope. Pack extra medication and **store the kit so it is reachable.**
13. **Stay with your vehicle and wait for help if you get stuck.**

-MORE-



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Click on this link for chain information: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/roadinfo/ChainRequire.pdf>

For more information on Caltrans projects, visit our web site at www.caltrans8.info and sign up for [COMMUTER/MEDIA E-MAIL ALERTS](#). View traffic conditions at <http://quickmap.dot.ca.gov> or you can view planned lane closures at www.lcswebreports.dot.ca.gov. Follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/caltrans8. Like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/caltrans8.



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